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Subject: Do You Celebrate Thanks(for)Giving?
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Teen Living Programs



November 2007

TLP e-newsletter

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[Thanks-for-Giving Event](#)
Nov. 22, 4 p.m

TLP appreciates its dedicated, generous volunteers and donors. What's a better way to express our gratitude than with food?

Stop by Belfort House (this will be the last Thanks-for-Giving event held in the old Belfort!) on Nov. 22, 5 p.m., to enjoy delicious dishes whipped up by TLP youth, with a little help from the staff.

Please [RSVP](#) today!

[Gift-Wrapping Party](#)

Dear Nia,

Thanksgiving is a year-round affair at [Teen Living Programs](#). Thank you to our energetic staff, dedicated volunteers, generous donors and, most of all, the youth we serve. We hope you will join us for our Annual Thanks-for-Giving Celebration. See [Get Involved](#) on the left for details.

Executive Director's Update

[dlm summer 2006 color](#)

By [David L. Myers](#)



While gratitude should know no season, we do tend to stop, reflect, and give thanks more often now than at other times of the year. And while we aspire to be generous year-round, it is also true that we tend to give more during the holiday season. It is a time for counting and sharing our blessings.

We all have different gifts to share, and at TLP we are grateful for all types and all levels: [holiday presents for youth](#), a donation to our [annual fund](#) or [capital campaign](#), or the [gift of your time](#). Your contribution makes an important difference to us.

We hope we can count on you to make the holiday season bright for TLP youth. [See below to find out how you can provide gifts for TLP youth this holiday season.](#) Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

Youth News

Dec. 16, 6 p.m.

The holiday gift drive for TLP youth is in full gear, but these gifts need to be wrapped!

Please join other TLP volunteers and staff for a gift-wrapping party Dec. 16, 6 p.m., at TLP's administrative office.

Contact
[Nia Tavoularis](#)
for more information.



Back to School in Record Numbers!



Great TLP education news: We are very proud to report that

90% of TLP youth are currently enrolled in [programs to further their education](#), including GED tutoring, high school, college, and other academic/training programs!

We attribute this success to many factors, paramount of which is youth motivation! Six TLP youth are currently enrolled at the Youth Connection Leadership Academy, part of the Illinois Institute of Technology. This charter high school offers a college-like atmosphere and a comfortable environment for students.

On-site (at Belfort House) GED training provided by Central States Service Employment and Redevelopment (SER) has also made it easier for youth to get the preparation they need. Fifteen to 20 youth are slated for programs this fall.

Congratulations, students! Keep up the great work!

Youth News

Election 2008: Getting Out the Vote

Registering to vote is pretty easy if you have a permanent address, but it's a bit more complicated if you are homeless.

[American Flag](#)

TLP's recreation specialist Kristin Waltz became trained as a deputy registrar to help youth establish their address, get necessary ID, and get registered. For most, this was the first presidential election in which they had a say, and though the lines were long, almost every TLP youth voted!



"They were really enthusiastic and informed voters. We watched the debates, had lively philosophical discussions, and eagerly waited as the returns came in Tuesday night," said Waltz. "When President-elect Obama issued his acceptance speech from Grant Park, Belfort House was hopping with joy!"

We've Got Game! TLP Associates & Youth Watch Bulls Play Jazz

Okay, it would have been even better if the Bulls had won. But, TLP youth, staff,

and [TLP Associates](#) still had a blast at the Oct. 18 Chicago Bulls vs. Utah Jazz game at United Center!

The get-together provided a relaxed opportunity for youth and Associates to get to know each other better, and the chance for Associates and staff to enjoy one another's company outside of a meeting!

Our special thanks to the Chicago Bulls Community Relations team, TLP Associate Samir Mayekar, and all the Associates who helped out to make the event so much fun!



Holiday Giving to TLP

Give a Gift that Makes a Difference



Looking for ways to give to TLP this holiday season?

However you show your support, your gift helps youth stay warm, healthy, and safe. Here are a few suggestions for needed items.

Consider making a donation to our [annual fund](#).

- \$50 equals 10 days of transportation to and from school or work.
- \$100 fills a Welcome Basket of necessities for new residents. *See below.*
- \$250 purchases a new bed-and-mattress set for one youth.
- \$500 purchases a new computer for TLP's Learning Lab.

Prefer to choose gifts yourself?

- **Welcome Baskets.** Every youth who enters TLP's transitional living program receives a welcome basket filled with toiletries and personal items. Complete welcome baskets are about \$100. *View a list of [Welcome Basket items](#).*
- **Outreach Program Health and Hygiene Survival Kits** (approximately \$50). All items should be new, unopened, and travel size. Items needed:
 - Soap, body wash, and shampoo
 - Hand sanitizer and lotion
 - Toothbrush and toothpaste
 - Shaving cream and razors
 - Feminine hygiene products
 - Combs and brushes
 - One-use detergent, bleach, and fabric softener
- **Outreach Program Food Kits** (approximately \$25). All items should be new, unopened, and in original packaging. Items needed:

- 100% juice boxes/packs
- single-serving chips and cookies
- fruitcups and granola/energy bars
- single-serving ramen noodles and microwave soup

• **Plus, we always need:**

- Gift Cards (\$10-\$30 increments) for drug stores, grocery stores, discount stores, and electronic stores
- Hats, gloves, and scarves
- Slippers and PJs
- Throw blankets (indoor and outdoor)
- Special treats like holiday candy, cookies, and other sweets!

Please be sure all items are new and in original packaging. For more information or to arrange a gift drop-off, please contact [Nia Tavoularis](#).

Recent Grants

Thank you, [Gap Inc.](#), [Nuveen Investments](#), [The Owens Foundation](#), and [Harry F. Chaddick and Elaine M. Chaddick Foundation](#), for your recent grants in support of Teen Living Programs!

Gap Inc. awarded a \$50,000 grant in support of Project Youth Works, a transitional jobs program for youth who are homeless. *Thank you, [Gap Inc.](#), for your continued support of this program and your ongoing partnership with Teen Living Programs!*

Nuveen Investments awarded a \$12,500 grant in support of TLP's [mission](#) of creating hope and opportunity for youth who are homeless. *Thank you, [Nuveen Investments](#), for your continued support of our mission!*

The Owens Foundation awarded a \$5,000 general operating grant. General operating is essential to TLP's delivery of all of our [housing](#), [supportive services](#), and [outreach and prevention](#) programs. *Thank you, [The Owens Foundation](#), for your continued support of Teen Living Programs!*

Harry F. Chaddick and Elaine M. Chaddick Foundation awarded \$5,000 in support of our Stable Housing Program, which includes the [Belfort House](#) transitional living program, the [CaSSA](#) independent living program, and [Supportive Services](#) for these youth. *Thank you, [Harry F. Chaddick and Elaine M. Chaddick Foundation](#), for your support of our Stable*

Donate Now

Donations to Teen Living Programs are tax-deductible as charitable contributions and can be made with a check, by a transfer of stock, or online with a credit card.

Note: Online donations ARE eligible for Matching Gift Programs. Just mail TLP the paperwork and we'll take it from there.

Checks should be made payable to **Teen Living Programs** and can be mailed to:

Teen Living Programs
162 W. Hubbard
Suite 400
Chicago, IL 60610-4524

or visit our [Web site](#) to make a secure online donation.

Questions? Call [Nia Tavoularis](#), director of development, at 312-568-5700, ext. 228.

Thank you for your support!

www.teenliving.org

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